

Message Text

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44

ACTION EA-10

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R 240943Z FEB 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 836

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

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CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 2353

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E O 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, RP, KS

SUBJ: VISIT OF KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER TO MANILA

REF: MANILA 9640 OF 8/8/74

BEGIN SUMMARY: KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER DONG-JO KIM PAID LARGELY CEREMONIAL VISIT TO MANILA FEB 19-21. KIM HAD LENGTHY AND CORDIAL SESSION WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS WHO QUESTIONED HIM EAGERLY ABOUT MODALITIES AND RESULTS OF KOREAN REFERENDUM. (PHILIPPINE REFERENDUM IS SET FOR FEB. 27.) KIM ONCE AGAIN AIRED ROK'S DESIRE FOR MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL BODY. RESULT WAS VAGUE ENDORSEMENT OF "ASIAN FORUM" CONCEPT IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE. PARTIES AGREED TO HOLD MINISTERS' OF LABOR BILATERAL TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS INVOLVED IN EXPORT OF SKILLED TECHNICIANS. THEY ALSO AGREED TO REVIEW 1969 CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT WHICH KOREANS (BUT NOT GOP) WOULD LIKE TO EXPAND FROM PRESENT CHARTER-SERVICE-ONLY TO SOMETHING MORE SUBSTANTIAL. JOINT COMMUNIQUE BEING POUCHED SEOUL AND SECSTATE. END SUMMARY.

1. KOREAN FOREIGN MINISTER PAID THREE-DAY VISIT TO MANILA

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FEBRUARY 19-21. ACCORDING TO KOREAN EMBOFF, KIM WAS

ESSENTIALLY STAND-IN FOR PRIME MINISTER KIM CHONG-PIL WHOSE SOUTHEAST ASIAN TRIP HAS BEEN REPEATEDLY POSTPONED (MOST RECENTLY BECAUSE OF PREOCCUPATION WITH REFERENDUM.) ALTHOUGH PRESS COVERAGE ONLY MODERATE, VISIT CORDIAL THROUGHOUT.

2. ON FINAL DAY OF VISIT, KIM SPENT NEARLY TWO HOURS WITH PRESIDENT MARCOS WHO, ACCORDING KOREAN EMBOFF, DEVOTED MUCH TIME TO EXPLAINING MUSLIM REBELLION IN SOUTH AND TO QUESTIONING KIM AT LENGTH ABOUT CONDUCT AND RESULTS OF KOREAN REFERENDUM (PHILIPPINE RQUIVALENT IS SCHEDULED FOR FEB. 27.)

3. DISCUSSION OF REGIONAL AFFAIRS BETWEEN KIM AND GOP OFFICIALS WAS INCONCLUSIVE. ACCORDING EMBOFF, KOREANS ARE ANXIOUS FOR MEMBERSHIP IN REGIONAL GROUPING TO REPLACE DEFUNCT ASPAC, BUT FULLY AWARE THAT ASEAN IS BARRED TO THEM. THUS THEY ARE INCLINED TO FAVOR BROADER FORUM OF SOME KIND BUT WISH TO AVOID OVERLY EXPLICIT IDENTIFICATION WITH PHILIPPINE'S OWN "ASIAN FORUM" PROPOSAL AT THIS TIME. RESULT OF THESE RATHER VAGUE YEARNINGS WAS PARAGRAPH NINE OF JOINT COMMUNIQUE, WHICH STATES THAT BOTH SIDES RECOGNIZE NEED FOR "A FORUM" TO DISCUSS REGIONAL COOPERATION AND THAT FONMIN "VIEWS WITH APPROVAL" PHILIPPINES' "ASIAN FORUM".

4. MAIN SUBSTANTIVE ITEM FROM KOREAN STANDPOINT WAS CIVIL AIR AGREEMENT. KOREANS EAGER TO EXPAND 1969 CHARTER AGREEMENT (UNDER WHICH KOREAN AIRLINE MAINLY BRINGS IN JAPANESE TOURISTS EMBARKED ON KOREA-PHILIPPINE TOURS) TO AGREEMENT ALLOWING SCHEDULED SERVICE. KOREANS SEE THIS AS BECOMING PART OF CIRCLE SERVICE FROM KOREA AROUND SOUTHEAST ASIA INCLUDING SINGAPORE AND BANGKOK (WHERE KOREANS ALREADY HAVE RIGHTS.) ACCORDING KOREAN EMBOFF, PHILS EXPRESSED SLIGHT INTEREST BUT ASSENTED TO PARA FOUR IN JOINT COMMUNIQUE WHICH AGREES TO REVIEW EXISTING AGREEMENT LATER THIS YEAR.

5. PHILIPPINE SIDE PROPOSED BILATERAL MINISTERS' OF LABOR MEETING TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS MUTUALLY ENCOUNTERED IN EXPORT OF SKILLED LABORERS AND TECHNICIANS ABROAD (PARA FIVE OF COMMUNIQUE). BY WAY OF EXPLANATION KOREAN EMBOFF MENTIONED APPARENT EVIDENT CONCERN OF GOP AT RECENT ACTIVITIES OF CONFIDENTIAL

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IRANIAN MANPOWER DELEGATION WHICH VISITED BOTH PHILIPPINES (MANILA 705) AND KOREA IN JANUARY AND APPARENTLY DID FAIRLY SHREWD JOB OF PLAYING THESE TWO TECHNICIAN EXPORTERS AGAINST EACH OTHER.

6. COMMUNIQUE INCLUDED PROFESSIONS OF MUTUAL ADMIRATION FOR PROGRESS AND STABILITY IN RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES AND ASSURANCE FROM ROMULO THAT GOP WOULD CONTINUE TO SUPPORT ROK ON ISSUE

OF REUNIFICATION OF KOREA AND ADMITTANCE TO UN. KOREAN EMB-
OFF SAID THIS ASSURANCE WAS ENTIRELY IDEA OF PHILIPPINES
SINCE KOREANS "COMPLETELY CONFIDENT" OF CONTINUING PHILIPPINE
SUPPORT ON THIS ISSUE.

7. COMMENT: DESPITE KOREAN EMBOFF'S PROFESSION OF CON-
FIDENCE IN CONTINUING PHILIPPINE GOOD INTENTIONS RE SEOUL-
PYONGYANG RELATIONS, KOREANS WERE PRESUMABLY REASSURED THAT
PHILS NOT MOVING ANY CLOSER TO RECOGNITION OF PYONGYANG
AFTER AUSTRALIAN DEFECTION.
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